

Godly Examples with Godly Advice, Part 3 - Acts 18:26-28 February 1st, 2009

- Last week we left Paul at the end of his 2 nd missionary journey, but not before Luke introduces us to this brother by the name of Apollos.
- It seems like that the Holy Spirit wants us to know about Apollos for a reason, which may explain why we're sort of abruptly introduced.
- I'm really starting to like this Apollos. Like with Paul; the more we get to know them, the more we love them. They're like friends to us.
- Not only are they like friends to us, they are really examples for us, and they even, via the written Word, can give good advice to us.
- This is part three of a study titled; "Godly Examples with Godly Advice," by way of review and introduction, let's look at the first three.
1. Be knowledgeable (Verse 24) We're told that Apollos was a Jew, from Alexandria, which explained why he was so knowledgeable.
2. Be exciting (Verse 25a) He spoke with great fervor, meaning he boiled or bubbled over in the spirit. He was both excited and exciting.
3. Be accurate (Verse 25b) - We're told that Apollos taught about Jesus accurately. This has led some to believe he wrote Hebrews.
4. Be bold (Verse 26a)
26a He began to speak boldly in the synagogue.
v26a Apollos begins to speak boldly in, of all places the synagogue, which by any stretch of the imagination, means you can't be bashful.
- Again, here's another piece of advice for us to both, "hear and heed." Be bold, don't be bashful, I think we're too timid and bashful.
2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. NIV
Proverbs 28:1 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. NIV
- Here's the point, we are likened unto a lion. Have you ever seen a bashful lion, besides on the "Wizard of Oz?" No, lions are bold.
- Now, this is certainly not a license to be brash and harsh, rather, it's to have a holy boldness, or holy "confidence," if you prefer.
- The example of Apollos before us and his advice to us is that the powers of darkness are more afraid of us than we should be of them.
5. Be teachable (Verse 26b)
26b ...When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately .
v26b We have a rare and remarkable example of being teachable. After Priscilla and Aquila hear him teach, they correct and rebuke him!
- No! They invite him over for dinner privately, and humbly "explain to him the way of God more adequately." How does Apollos react?
- He is so angered by these "tent makers," for even questioning him. After all, don't they know how education and knowledgeable he is.
- No, that's not what he does, he may be very knowledgeable, but here we see that he is even more teachable than he is knowledgeable.
"Apollos had a teachable spirit. Aquila and Priscilla were deeply impressed with him, but they detected at once the flaw in his preaching. With rare tact, however, they made no attempt to correct him in front of anyone. They did not buttonhole him after the service and argue with him. They had a better way. We can picture the kind of thing they did "Come on home with us, Apollos," they said, "come and have a meal at our place." Then, perhaps around the kitchen table, or sitting comfortably in the living room after a hospitable meal, they gently led the conversation around to the message of the morning, told Apollos what a blessing he had been, asked him how he had become a believer, and introduced the question of baptism. Then, gently and lovingly, they filled in the gaps in his knowledge of the truth. ...Thus, by combining truth with tact, Aquila and Priscilla made a firm friend and helped to quip an able servant of God better for the work of the ministry.
John Phillips, "Exploring Acts," v. 2 p. 375
- Here's the point: "We have a good and godly example from Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila who are giving us some good and godly advice.
- Here it is: "To those of us on the receiving end like Apollos, be teachable, to those on the giving end like Priscilla and Aquila, be tactful."
6. Be helpful (Verse 27)
27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.
v27 Apollos now wants to go to Achaia, and as was the custom in the early church, letters were sent there so he would be welcomed.
- We're then told that, upon his arrival, he "was a great help," to those who by grace had believed. He was there for them, not vice versa.
- Again, this is a seemingly nebulous detail that's given to us, yet, when we take a closer look, it has huge implications and ramifications.
- Apollos, like the Apostle Paul, are good examples to us, and a good influence on us, because they never made the ministry about them.
- I cringe when I see these, so called men of God, poor mouthing God, by asking for help from God's people. It's become all about them.
- Pastor's, teachers, evangelists and all those in lifetime service for Lord, are there as bond-slaves to minister to and serve God's people.
1 Thessalonians 2:5-9 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed-God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, 7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. 8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. 9 Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. NIV

7. Be strong (Verse 28)

28 For **he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate**, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

v28 We're told that Apollos "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ."

- We would do well to understand that Apollos was strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. He'd have to be in order to do this.
- It is because of this that some scholars believe that Apollos may have been the one who authored the letter to the Hebrews.

- To say that the letter of Hebrews is strong in its authorship and in its scholarship would almost be an understatement.
- The epistle to the Hebrew believers is such that it could have probably only been authored by someone as strong as Paul or Apollos.
- So what's the point; "The example of Apollos rises from the pages of scripture to encourage us and even advise us to "be strong."
- In other words, we need to be a "pillar of strength" to those in the church, and a picture of strength to those outside the church.

"He proved himself a tower of strength to that church, both by his teaching within the church and by his preaching to those outside, especially to the Jews of Corinth, as he refuted their counter-arguments by showing how Jesus of Nazareth had fulfilled the ancient scriptures in such a way that His Messiahship could not be denied."

F.F. Bruce